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Roxbury, Jan. 23, 1872.

My Dear Friend:

I had not read the 58th No. of Henry Wilson's Anti-Slavery History (?) in The Independent, when your letter in reference to it was received. I do not wonder that you were moved to write to him in such plain terms, which I endorse as eminently just, as well as promptly called for and expressed. I should like to know what you get from him in reply. The truth is, in writing his History he has failed to show the vital difference that existed between genuine and sectarian abolitionism, but tried to play the amicable all round the circle; finding no fault with anything said or done by the sectarian seceders, but mildly deploring the acts of some of the old abolitionists—as in the cases of Foster and Beach. How, in the name of common sense, could any person reasonably "entertain the hope that the members of the old and new organizations, if they could not walk together in unity, could act harmo-



niously for the common cause"? What justification was there for the secession? None. The American A. S. Society was no "rival society," but remained true <sup>to</sup> its responsibilities and object. The "rival society" was the American and Foreign A. S. Society, and it left nothing undone to cover the old society with infamy, and to crush it out of existence. But even its hostility was short-lived, as it speedily lost all power of speech and action, and simply proved little better than an abortion; while the American A. S. Society was never so powerful in its appeals and efforts as it was after the secession, and until the final abolition of slavery. Technically speaking, it is true, there were fewer anti-slavery societies after 1840-5 than before that time; for very many of the small local societies disappeared, and our aim was not to restore them. But our anti-slavery agitation shook the nation more and more, and made such headway at last as to force the South into rebellion, hoping thereby to form a great slaveholding empire. But you know all the facts in the case. I heartily thank you for sending so excellent a protest to H. W. Yours, truly, W. L. G.



Letter to Henry Wilson

Rev. Samuel May,

Leicester,

Mass.

Boston  
Nov 10 1840





Ms. A. 1. 1 v. 8, p. 11 B